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Broadest Protests Since '87 Rock Korea

Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea, May 9 — Tens of thousands of anti-Government protesters rallied in major cities across South Korea today, demanding the resignation of President Roh Tae Woo.

Estimates of the total number of demonstrators ranged from 100,000 and 400,000, and the rallies were probably the largest since the student and worker uprising in 1987 that helped lead to democracy here. One million people were said to have walked off the job or to have boycotted classes.

Clashes between protesters and the riot police were reported nationwide. Seoul's city center was brought to a standstill by fighting between students armed with firebombs and stones, and riot police officers who retaliated with volleys of tear gas. A police spokesman said 28 police officers were wounded nationwide. There were no reports on injuries to protesters, and no arrest figures were provided.

The demonstrations are the latest in a series provoked by the killing of a student protester on April 26. The protester, Kang Kyong Dae, died after being beaten by the riot police. The killing has aroused such passions among opponents of the Government that in the last two weeks three people, including two students, have committed suicide in protest by setting themselves on fire.

A Korean Demonstrator Dies After Setting Himself Ablaze

SEOUL, South Korea, May 2 (Reuters) — Demonstrators battled riot policemen in Seoul, Pusan, Kwangju and other South Korean cities today to protest the fatal police beating of a student last week.

A 20-year-old student died when he set himself ablaze to protest the beating death. A female student who set herself on fire for the same reason is hospitalized in critical condition.

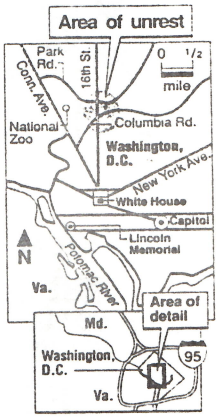
SEOUL, South Korea, April 28 — In an unusual show of sensitivity to public opinion in a country where the Government has usually quelled dissent with a heavy hand, President Roh Tae Woo dismissed his Interior Minister over the weekend after the police reportedly beat a student protester to death with steel pipes.

Although South Korean university students often throw firebombs during demonstrations and the police frequently fire tear gas, this is the first case in which a student has been killed by police officers since 1987. Outrage over that incident helped bring down the Government of Chun Doo Hwan.

Riots again hit Washington

By James A. Parcell, The Washington Post via Reuters

LOOTING SPREE: Youths dropping bottles of alcohol jump from a liquor store window Monday night as police draw near. The neighborhood was under a curfew Tuesday night.



WASHINGTON — Cruz Gomez fled war-torn El Salvador with dreams of a high-paying job and sending money back to his family.

Two years later, Gomez, 20, like many other Hispanic immigrants here, finds himself vying for low-paying construction jobs, crammed with several others into an apartment designed for two, and complaining that the city's government isn't helping much.

"There is no work for Latinos," says Gomez, an unemployed high school graduate. "I won't clean buildings. I have an education. I didn't think it would be like this here."

Those feelings of frustration boiled over Sunday in Gomez's Mount Pleasant neighborhood when police shot a Hispanic man who was being arrested. Police say he had a knife; others say he was handcuffed.

As word of the shooting spread, angry residents rioted and looted stores, causing more than $600,000 in damage.

WASHINGTON — For the second night in a row a Hispanic neighborhood two miles from the White House erupted in violence between bandana-masked youths and police.

Tear gas wafted throughout the Mount Pleasant community after outnumbered police used it to disperse a crowd of rock-throwing youths.

The unrest began Sunday, after a police officer shot a Hispanic man while trying to arrest him.

Street Unrest

In the debris-strewn street, the crowd, their bandanas affording little protection against tear gas, began taunting police. *"Asesino! Asesino!"* screamed some, using the Spanish word for "murderer."

Associated Press

A police wagon and car burn in Washington on Sunday night. More violence was reported last night.

2nd night of violence for Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rock-throwing youths attacked police and property for a second straight night in a Hispanic neighborhood of the nation's capital yesterday, and authorities responded with tear gas in an attempt to quell the disturbance.

Overturned trash cans, piles of burning garbage and smoldering tear gas canisters littered the Mount Pleasant neighborhood two miles from the White House. One car was set afire, windows of a fast-food restaurant were smashed and the driver and a dozen passengers were chased from a commuter bus.

By Win McNamee, Reuters

BATTLING BLAZE: Washington firefighters douse a car set on fire by rioters in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood Monday as Hispanic youths and police clash for a second night.

D.C. slaps curfew on riot area

Feelings of frustration boil over

Peruvian Rebels Cut Power and Attack Embassies

LIMA, Peru, April 6 (AP) — Maoist guerrillas plunged nearly half of Peru's population into darkness and bombed embassies and banks in Lima in the most widespread attacks of Alberto Fujimori's nine-month-old presidency, the police said today.

Attacks on Peru's electrical distribution system on Friday night left 7 million people in Lima and 3 million along the Pacific coast and inland valleys in the dark in this country of 21 million, the authorities said.

The Japanese, Israeli and Colombian Embassies were attacked with bombs, dynamite and bazookas in a two-hour period, the Lima police and radio stations said. No injuries were immediately reported.

The guerrillas also bombed at least half a dozen Peruvian banks and a gasoline depot in downtown Lima, the police said.

The army was patrolling the city in armored vehicles and the navy was patrolling Lima's port of Callao, Radio-programas and Radio Panamericana reported. The stations said the police had arrested hundreds of people who were not carrying identification.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the police blamed the Shining Path guerrillas, a Maoist group. Two callers to radio stations in the Lima area reported seeing large ground fires in the shape of a hammer and sickle, the trademark of the Shining Path. One of the blazes was set at the San Marcos University campus.

Shining Path has not been active in Lima for many months but has clashed repeatedly with the armed forces in the highlands and jungle.

President Fujimori was in Nagoya, Japan, to attend an Inter-American Development Bank conference when the attacks occurred.

A car bomb exploded outside the garden wall of the Japanese Embassy, causing slight structural damage, the police told the radio stations. Reporters at the scene said debris was scattered around the block.

The police said guerrillas fired a bazooka at the Israeli Embassy on Arequipa Avenue, blowing out windows and damaging the front of the building.

Radio reporters said rebels had attacked the Colombian Embassy by throwing dynamite from a passing car.

The power blackout affected a swath of countryside, from the coastal city of Trujillo, 305 miles northwest of the capital, to Ica, 160 miles to the southeast. Electricity was also cut off in the central Andean city of Huancayo, 120 miles east of Lima.

It was the most extensive blackout since Mr. Fujimori took office last July.

Lights flicked off in Lima just before 9 P.M. on Friday, but most power was restored in the capital by 11 P.M.

Peruvian rebels bomb 40 banks

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Police said yesterday that leftist rebels dynamited 40 bank branches in late-night attacks throughout the capital that injured a bank employee and a passerby.

The Thursday night bombings came one day after President Alberto Fujimori signed a law deregulating Peru's banks. Earlier reports said six people were hurt in the attacks, but police confirmed only two injuries.

Police said the guerrillas threw identical 2-pound charges at the banks, shattering windows, bending metal shutters and crumbling concrete walls.

1 of 10 U.S. homes was vacant in 1990

By Tim Bovee
Associated Press

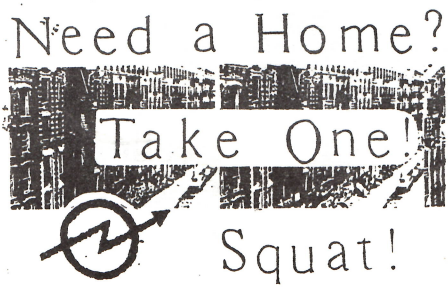
WASHINGTON — There are 10.3 million vacant houses, townhouses, apartments and condominiums in the United States — one of every 10 dwellings checked by the Census Bureau.

It's the highest rate of vacancies in a half-century, and about 2 million more vacancies than census counters found in 1980.

Vermont, with 22.3 percent of its units empty, and Maine, with 20.7, have the highest percentage of vacancies in the nation. The statistics show 60,564 of Vermont's 271,214 units are empty, while 121,733 of Maine's 587,045 are vacant.

In Massachusetts, 9.1 percent of the homes were empty.

Some cities have large blocks of empty homes because the local economy turned sour in the 1980s. Just the opposite is true in other communities flush with a symbol of family prosperity — vacation homes.



German business leader slain

BONN (WP) — Detlev Rohwedder, chief of the trust charged with privatizing eastern Germany's 8,000 Communist-era businesses, was killed late last night by shots fired through a window of his Duesseldorf home.

His wife was slightly wounded in the attack, police said.

The Red Army Faction, the leftist terrorist group that has killed numerous German political and business leaders since the 1970s, called Agence France-Presse in Paris to claim responsibility for the assassination, a Duesseldorf police spokesman confirmed. Police had no independent evidence of the group's involvement.

Rohwedder, 58, was one of the most prominent German business leaders to devote himself to rebuilding eastern Germany. "There is no businessman in Germany who tried so hard to lay the foundation for the economic reconstruction of eastern Germany," said government spokesman Dieter Vogel.

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PO Box 366
Williamstown, MA
01267 USA